

**From:** [Tomiak, Robert](#)  
**To:** [Dunning, Connell](#); [Allnutt, David](#); [Blevins, John](#); [Farmer, Alan](#); [Filippelli, John](#); [Johnson, Kathleen](#); [Pomponio, John](#); [Stavnes, Sandra](#); [Tapia, Cecilia](#); [Walsh-Rogalski, William](#); [Watts, Alan](#); [Mitchell, Judy-Ann](#); [Smidinger, Betsy](#); [Tapp, Joshua](#); [Timmermann, Timothy](#); [Musumeci, Grace](#); [Lapp, Jeffrey](#); [Militscher, Chris](#); [Westlake, Kenneth](#); [Jansky, Michael](#); [Shepard, Larry](#); [Nogi, Jill](#); [Houston, Robert](#); [Saunders, Jerry](#); [Rudnick, Barbara](#); [Mancusi-Ungaro, Philip](#); [Hicks, Matt](#); [Tilley, Amber](#); [Summerlin, Joe](#); [Skelley, Dana](#); [Strobel, Philip](#); [Johnson, Kathleen](#); [Goforth, Kathleen](#); [Moutoux, Nicole](#)  
**Cc:** [Knight, Kelly](#); [Marshall, Tom](#); [OECA-OFA-NEPA](#); [Hessert, Aimee](#)  
**Subject:** NEPA Brief to Transition Team  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 08, 2017 3:40:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [NEPA elevation criteria.docx](#)  
[NEPA Forecast Report 2-7-17.docx](#)

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Yesterday, Kelly (in her 5<sup>th</sup> week!) briefed the Transition Team's primary lead for OECA topics, Justin Schwab. The brief went extremely well; we were on the receiving end of several questions, all relatively easy to answer. Thank you all for the quick review and very helpful comments and recommendations! This morning, Justin confirmed that the team concurs with our recommended criteria for elevating issues to them (final version attached).

(b) (5)

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ultimately, stronger partnerships with other Federal agencies give us an added ability to influence positive change outside the formal comments process. I've had very productive meetings with counterparts in several of the larger agencies and heard positive commitments from each. We're meeting with BLM on Friday, then DOJ and DOD in the upcoming weeks. My objective with DOJ is to try to identify better (and readily available) performance metrics to which we might be able to better connect our document reviews. If any of you are having consistent struggles with a particular agency, and you'd like us to help crack the door for renewed efforts to improve those relationships, please let us know and give us enough examples that reflect our reasonableness and balance in contrast to that other agency's approach.

Again, I appreciate your efforts to help us build a 6 week out-look that reflected the sheer volume of what you all do day in and day out. The good news is that we made that point successfully and no longer need you to sustain that list (or what we had collectively referred to previously as the big list). I suspect our staffing levels may be challenged at some point, so please start thinking about how best to capture and record stats that reflect your work load. If you already have something easy in place, please share it with the broader group. I'd ask that you now cull your list of known and anticipated project reviews, apply the elevation criteria, and then work with Kelly and her group to establish a rhythm of recurring updates on just those projects. A sample of the NEPA forecast that we would like to use (could be tweaked and improved a bit perhaps) with our front office and new AA (when we have one) is attached. For projects that meet the elevation criteria, we need enough information to get smart quickly and serve as advocates for the path forward that you recommend, or have the ability to engage inside the beltway, when that might be helpful to your efforts. The basic information that we need to be effective is a short description of the project, status, rating (either what you provided on the draft in now looking at a final or what you are anticipating providing on the draft under review), concerns, and way forward. Thinking with the reduced number of projects, this might be a relatively easy exercise, so would ask for your initial input to be sent to Aimee by the end of the week.

We are briefing the full transition team tomorrow and will provide feedback from that as well. Again, I appreciate the great team effort to establish community and program credibility with the Transition Team early on.

Thanks, Rob

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**From:** Tomiak, Robert  
**Sent:** Monday, February 06, 2017 3:55 PM  
**To:** Dunning, Connell ; Allnutt, David ; Blevins, John ; Farmer, Alan ; Filippelli, John ; Johnson, Kathleen ; Pomponio, John ; Stavnes, Sandra ; Tapia, Cecilia ; Walsh-Rogalski, William ; Watts, Alan ; Mitchell, Judy-Ann ;

Smidinger, Betsy ; Tapp, Joshua ; Timmermann, Timothy ; Musumeci, Grace ; Lapp, Jeffrey ; Militscher, Chris ; Westlake, Kenneth ; Jansky, Michael ; Shepard, Larry ; Nogi, Jill ; Houston, Robert ; Saunders, Jerry ; Rudnick, Barbara ; Mancusi-Ungaro, Philip ; Hicks, Matt ; Tilley, Amber ; Summerlin, Joe ; Skelley, Dana ; Strobel, Philip ; Johnson, Kathleen ; Goforth, Kathleen ; Moutoux, Nicole

**Cc:** Knight, Kelly ; Marshall, Tom ; OECA-OFA-NEPA ; Hessert, Aimee

**Subject:** RE: R9 feedback RE: Draft NEPA Brief

I appreciate the great feedback and recommendations from all of you; I think we have a great story to tell about the work we do and our positive contribution to the federal community. We attempted to incorporate as many of your points as possible, without going in too many offshoots. We will offer the team follow up briefs on specific topics, depending on the questions and comments we receive.

(b) (5)

We'll circle back with you all once we're done; and with whatever direction or recommendations come out of the briefing.

Thanks! Rob

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**From:** Dunning, Connell

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 8:02 PM

**To:** Tomiak, Robert <[tomiak.robert@epa.gov](mailto:tomiak.robert@epa.gov)>; Allnutt, David <[Allnutt.David@epa.gov](mailto:Allnutt.David@epa.gov)>; Blevins, John <[Blevins.John@epa.gov](mailto:Blevins.John@epa.gov)>; Farmer, Alan <[Farmer.Alan@epa.gov](mailto:Farmer.Alan@epa.gov)>; Filippelli, John <[Filippelli.John@epa.gov](mailto:Filippelli.John@epa.gov)>; Johnson, Kathleen <[Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov)>; Pomponio, John <[Pomponio.John@epa.gov](mailto:Pomponio.John@epa.gov)>; Stavnes, Sandra <[Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov](mailto:Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov)>; Tapia, Cecilia <[Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov)>; Walsh-Rogalski, William <[Walshrogalski.William@epa.gov](mailto:Walshrogalski.William@epa.gov)>; Walts, Alan <[walts.alan@epa.gov](mailto:walts.alan@epa.gov)>; Mitchell, Judy-Ann <[Mitchell.Judy-Ann@epa.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Judy-Ann@epa.gov)>; Smidinger, Betsy <[Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov](mailto:Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov)>; Tapp, Joshua <[Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov](mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov)>; Timmermann, Timothy <[Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov](mailto:Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov)>; Musumeci, Grace <[Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov](mailto:Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov)>; Lapp, Jeffrey <[lapp.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:lapp.jeffrey@epa.gov)>; Militscher, Chris <[Militscher.Chris@epa.gov](mailto:Militscher.Chris@epa.gov)>; Westlake, Kenneth <[westlake.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:westlake.kenneth@epa.gov)>; Jansky, Michael <[Jansky.Michael@epa.gov](mailto:Jansky.Michael@epa.gov)>; Shepard, Larry <[Shepard.Larry@epa.gov](mailto:Shepard.Larry@epa.gov)>; Nogi, Jill <[nogi.jill@epa.gov](mailto:nogi.jill@epa.gov)>; Houston, Robert <[Houston.Robert@epa.gov](mailto:Houston.Robert@epa.gov)>; Saunders, Jerry <[Saunders.Jerry@epa.gov](mailto:Saunders.Jerry@epa.gov)>; Rudnick, Barbara <[Rudnick.Barbara@epa.gov](mailto:Rudnick.Barbara@epa.gov)>; Mancusi-Ungaro, Philip <[Mancusi-Ungaro.Philip@epa.gov](mailto:Mancusi-Ungaro.Philip@epa.gov)>; Hicks, Matt <[Hicks.Matthew@epa.gov](mailto:Hicks.Matthew@epa.gov)>; Tilley, Amber <[Tilley.Amber@epa.gov](mailto:Tilley.Amber@epa.gov)>; Summerlin, Joe <[summerlin.joe@epa.gov](mailto:summerlin.joe@epa.gov)>; Skelley, Dana <[Skelley.Dana@epa.gov](mailto:Skelley.Dana@epa.gov)>; Strobel, Philip <[Strobel.Philip@epa.gov](mailto:Strobel.Philip@epa.gov)>

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**Subject:** R9 feedback RE: Draft NEPA Brief

Rob –

Thanks for your call today and for asking for regional input for your upcoming briefing. As others shared on the call, we appreciate your efforts to refine as much as possible what makes its way to HQ for review and we are able to provide feedback as the next few months unfold. (b) (5)

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Thanks for considering these suggestions and good luck with preparing for Tuesday,  
Connell

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Connell Dunning

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Find out how EPA is protecting pollinators: <https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection>

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**From:** Tomiak, Robert

**Sent:** Friday, February 03, 2017 9:13 AM

**To:** Allnutt, David <[Allnutt.David@epa.gov](mailto:Allnutt.David@epa.gov)>; Blevins, John <[Blevins.John@epa.gov](mailto:Blevins.John@epa.gov)>; Farmer, Alan <[Farmer.Alan@epa.gov](mailto:Farmer.Alan@epa.gov)>; Filippelli, John <[Filippelli.John@epa.gov](mailto:Filippelli.John@epa.gov)>; Johnson, Kathleen <[Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:Johnson.Kathleen@epa.gov)>; Pomponio, John <[Pomponio.John@epa.gov](mailto:Pomponio.John@epa.gov)>; Stavnes, Sandra <[Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov](mailto:Stavnes.Sandra@epa.gov)>; Tapia, Cecilia <[Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov)>; Walsh-Rogalski, William <[Walshrogalski.William@epa.gov](mailto:Walshrogalski.William@epa.gov)>; Walts, Alan <[walts.alan@epa.gov](mailto:walts.alan@epa.gov)>; Mitchell, Judy-Ann <[Mitchell.Judy-Ann@epa.gov](mailto:Mitchell.Judy-Ann@epa.gov)>; Moutoux, Nicole <[Moutoux.Nicole@epa.gov](mailto:Moutoux.Nicole@epa.gov)>; Dunning, Connell <[Dunning.Connell@epa.gov](mailto:Dunning.Connell@epa.gov)>; Smidinger, Betsy <[Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov](mailto:Smidinger.Betsy@epa.gov)>; Tapp, Joshua <[Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov](mailto:Tapp.Joshua@epa.gov)>; Timmermann, Timothy <[Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov](mailto:Timmermann.Timothy@epa.gov)>; Goforth, Kathleen <[Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov](mailto:Goforth.Kathleen@epa.gov)>; Musumeci, Grace <[Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov](mailto:Musumeci.Grace@epa.gov)>; Lapp, Jeffrey

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**Subject:** Draft NEPA Brief

The attached brief is still in draft form, trying to pull this together quickly in advance of a brief that we are now schedule to provide to the transition team on Tuesday morning. My preference is that you all provide any suggestions to improve the content and/or messaging to Kelly and Tom NLT noon on Monday.

The intent is not to get into details; many members of the transition team do not have much background/experience with NEPA. (b) (5)

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)

However, I will also ask our folks here to review all letters that have been signed out the week prior to look for anything that appears to take a negative tone or seems unreasonable, and which might have a tendency to call attention to an otherwise non-issue, then provide that Region with specific feedback and seek fine tuning adjustments to future letters. That would allow us to strike the right balance between Regional autonomy/discretion and our need to be consistent and in a position to advocate for you.

If we don't have time to address some of these points on the call today, and you have recommendations or concerns that you would like to share, please reach out to me, Kelly, and/or Tom separately.

BTW: thanks for helping Aimee populate the NEPA forecast. We need to be able to characterize the volume of work this community performs each week when we meet with the transition team. My intent is that if our screening criteria is approved, you all can use that to manage what goes on our forecast going forward.

Thanks, Rob